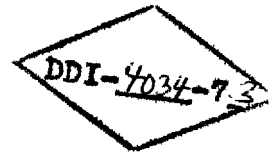


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27 July 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR: General Graham

SUBJECT : Curtailment of Army Area Handbook Series

REFERENCE : Draft Minutes of 19 July 1973 USIB Meeting

1. On 26 July 1973, Dr. Rowland H. Ludden, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations (DCSOPS), Department of the Army, advised me that the Army was going to stop funding for the Army Area Handbook Series with the completion of the FY 1974 contract.

2. The Army Area Handbook Series is a generally high quality, unclassified, general reference work produced under contract by the Foreign Area Studies (FAS) Department of the American University. Two recent issues are attached (the USSR and Ecuador). Because the books are unclassified, the key sections on the military, particularly in the USSR book, are somewhat shallow, but because of classification limitations, the NIS suffered the same deficiency. The other sections of the works, including the extensive Bibliographies, are sound and useful.

3. The Area Handbook contract has been for a flat one million dollars for the past several years. Inflation has caused reduced production from 15 to 13 books per year. Printing, distribution and administrative costs are less than \$350,000 annually. Printing costs per unit are slightly reduced by Government Printing Office public sale of the books. There are 2500 copies printed of each book. The Army's personnel overhead for administration of the Handbook program is small. Dr. Ludden devotes 25% of his time to the program, there is some clerical time, and contracting and distribution are handled through regular contracting and distribution channels.

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4. Those opposed to the NIS program used to cite the Army's Area Handbook program as a duplication. Although the audiences and purposes of the publications were different, there was some merit to the argument. With the demise of the NIS program, it would be appropriate for USIB to review taking over the Area Handbook contract. Mr. Proctor, DDI, pointed out in the USIB meeting of 19 July that alternative proposals to the NIS, e.g., production by external contract, might be considered by the community at a later date. Since the currently approved Area Handbook contract runs through FY 74, there is sufficient time for USIB to consider adapting the Area Handbook program to its needs and funding the program on a cost sharing basis. Continuation of the established program with American University would seem to have merit over developing a whole new and probably more costly program.

5. Recommend that this memorandum be forwarded to Mr. Edward Proctor, DDI, for comment.



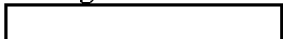
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Attachments

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Remarks:

Any comments?

I suggest we ask King to
provide the comment.

done BC *[signature]*

8/7/73

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